Victory Advocates Hold 'Free Theater'

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Protest was in the air yesterday and the "Americans for Peace Not Surrender" had no difficulty attracting a lively lunchtime crowd to Farragut Square for a display of "free theater."

The theater turned out to be two brief pantomime skits mocking the efforts of the peace movement and depicting the North Vietnamese—"Ho's Homehos"—in the role of baby killers.

Although the crowd of several hundred onlookers was peppered with young people in Washington for Saturday's march, the "free theater's" reception was decidedly proper.

Young antiwar demonstrators stood in relative silence as the men in dark suits with American flags in their lapels applauded the performance. Only once was a placard hoisted declaring that "all killing is anti-Christian."

But once the actors had retreated from the scene, a debate broke out in small clusters as tousled youths listened to what some of their elders had to say.

"When you get right down in the nitty gritty," a man in a trench coat said to a youth with a peace button, "the people in this country support what the President is doing in Vietnam."

"The reason 'the silent majority' hasn't spoken out," another man said, shaking a finger, "is just what Senator Fowon said the other day, they are too busy working."

The antiwar people did not shrink from the challenge. "I think you're all wrong," a youth with a button that said "Out Now" offered, "the people in this country have had enough."

"You people," another young man said, "who keep warning us about the Communists just don't understand how times have changed."

"Oh, you'll learn," an older replied.

The arguments were spirited yet polite. No one's mind seemed to be changed, but a youth walking away was heard to say, "at least I had a chance to tell those counter-revolutionaries what's happening."

"Americans for Peace not Surrender," the sponsors of yesterday's rally, have said they will seek to join Saturday's mass antiwar march although they are not in agreement with most of its aims.

Late yesterday, Ed Butler, spokesman for the group said he had received no response to his request to join from the march sponsors. Butler and his supporters are meeting at 10 a.m. in Meridian Square.

Besides marching, the "Americans for Peace not Surrender" have taken another leaf from the Vietnam protestors. They concluded yesterday's rally with a candlelight vigil.

[illegible] one of them got up was for the dying man in Walter Reed Hospital.

Americans killed in Vietnam